

CONGRATULATIONS

ON THE RECENT PROMOTIONS

- Captain Keith Lively to Battalion Chief (Battalion 3 C-Shift)
- Lieutenant Thomas Stokes to Captain (AT-1 B-Shift)
- Lieutenant John Grant to Captain (AT-4 A-Shift)
- Sergeant Daniel Williams to Lieutenant (Engine 5 C-Shift)
- Sergeant Ian Matijczuk to Lieutenant (Engine 5 C-Shift)
- Firefighter Eric Smith to Sergeant (Engine 15 C-Shift)
- Firefighter Antoine Mullins to Sergeant (Engine 9 B-Shift)
- Captain Charles Kneece to Battalion Chief (Battalion 2 C-Shift)
- Captain Jeffrey Daniel to Battalion Chief (Battalion 3 B-Shift)
- Lieutenant Anthony Reynolds to Captain (AT-2 A-Shift)
- Lieutenant Timothy Chipley to Captain (AT-1 A-Shift)
- Sergeant Joseph Galvin to Lieutenant (Engine 7 C-Shift)
- Sergeant Nicholas Hobbs to Lieutenant (Engine 11 A-Shift)
- Firefighter Michael Palmer to Sergeant (Engine 5 A-Shift)
- Firefighter Shawn Chilton to Sergeant (Engine 7 C-Shift)

The Blaze

THE AUGUSTA FIRE/EMA

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1ST QUARTER
2015

Message from the Chief

As we continue into this new year, the Augusta Fire Department recognizes the accomplishments of the men and women who work diligently to serve this department and community. Congratulations to the outstanding members of the Augusta Fire Department who have earned promotions in recent months. We look forward to your leadership and service.

In an effort to shine a light on some of the great things happening in our

department, this newsletter will be distributed electronically to provide insight into some of the positive things being done by each of you. The newsletter will serve as a point of information regarding work related issues. It will also feature the great things you are doing in the department and community.



The department is also looking for members who are interested in serving on a committee that will choose peers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help others and the community. The committee will meet independently to make a nomination and choose the appropriate award. If you are interested in serving on this committee or being the chairperson please email me.

Congratulations New Retirees

Battalion Chief Tommy Whitener - 38 years
Battalion Chief James Freeman - 35 years
Battalion Chief Richard Burts - 34 years

Captain Kenny Roberts - 33 years
Firefighter David Blount - 19 years

Augusta Fire Department Takes Over Maintenance

For the first time since consolidation, maintenance services for the fire services vehicles will become part of Augusta Fire Department. The move was approved by county commissioners in the fall of 2014. The maintenance team will consist of a shop manager, five mechanics, a parts clerk and one administrative assistant. "The objective is to have better cost control over the shop as well as provide a higher level of maintenance service that will allow fire apparatus and firefighters to stay in service in their own territory. We welcome the new employees," explains Chief Chris James.

New Jump Kits Are Here



The Augusta Fire Department recently received a grant that has put into motion efforts to access better, easier to use equipment when responding to EMS calls. The new "Jump Kits" have arrived and they are expected to upgrade and standardize the existing kits. "We are transitioning to a two bag system that will lower the weight carried by an individual and reduce the stress placed on

our bags. One bag will be a jump kit and the other will contain oxygen and accessories," explains Training Captain Greg Hartshorne. A committee will also be formed to standardize stock levels and location for all supplies and equipment to be stored in the bags. According to Captain Hartshorne, once the diagram of location and stock levels has been approved, every

bag on this department will be maintained uniformly.

Anyone interested in serving on the committee to help develop the stocking diagram and quantities should send an email through their chain-of-command to Captain Greg Hartshorne email address.

New Jump Kits

"We hope the training will give them the knowledge of what to do in a disaster and they will help keep others from panicking."

EMA Trains Teen CERT Members



The Augusta Richmond County Emergency Management Agency held the first Community Emergency Response Team

(CERT) training for teens in Augusta. The program was taught to students at A.R. Johnson Magnet High School. The students learned critical skills to help save lives in an emergency or disaster. During the seven week training the students participated in weekly two hour classes. On the eighth week they participated in a drill that tests their abilities and put to use what they learned in the classroom. This

training will empower these teens to help their neighbors at home and their fellow students during the school day until first responders can arrive. We hope the training will give them the knowledge of what to do in a disaster and they will help keep others from panicking," says MA Disaster Preparedness Coordinator Mie Lucas.

A Hero With A Heart

Chief Ivan Bolgla with the Purple Heart awarded in 1945



Shift Commander Ivan Bolgla has served with the Augusta Fire Department for 35 years. During that time he has helped a lot of people locally. Now, his reach has spanned many miles and even decades. He was able to

reunite a family with a precious heirloom. Chief Bolgla purchased a Purple Heart at a local auction. Then, he contacted a group called "Purple Hearts Reunited" to track down the owner. It had been posthumously awarded to 2nd Lieutenant Harley Kempter who was shot down over the

Pacific Ocean in 1945 during World War II. On November 6, 2014, the medal was presented to his namesake, and nephew, in Washington, DC. "I collect medals. I couldn't fathom keeping a Purple Heart. It had to go to the family," says Chief Bolgla.

Captain Buckley Earns Top Honors

During a fall Augusta Commission meeting Captain Ian Buckley of the Augusta Fire Department was honored for his bravery and heroism after saving a woman and her child who were stuck on the banks of the Savannah River. A rock had lodged into the side of her canoe. Captain Buckley was hiking when he noticed the woman and child. He waded through water to help.

Upon returning to the South Carolina side, Captain Buckley's leg was scratched. A few days later it was discovered that he contracted a flesh eating bacteria. After intense medical attention, Captain Buckley is finally on the mend from the wound. We are happy to have him back. Aside from being honored by the city, he was also honored by the Augusta Exchange Club

South.



Firefighters Make The Grade: Adopt-A-School



Farewell Good And Faithful Servant



The Augusta Fire Department joins many across the CSRA in mourning the loss of a great friend and leader. In December, retired Battalion Chief Cary Russell passed leaving a wonderful legacy. He served with the Augusta Fire Department for 42 years. Chief Russell was very active in the local community and devoted his time to

organizations like Safe Kids of Georgia, the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation and the Girl Scouts of America. As a member of the Fire Department he gave his heart and soul to help those around him. Rest in peace Chief!